

Common Weak Areas Observed On Initial CFI Practical Tests – Airplanes

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AERODYNAMICS:

- How lift, weight, thrust, and drag act on aircraft in a climb or descent
- Why maneuvering speed varies with weight
- Explanation of the relationship between center of pressure and center of gravity
- Explanation of trim devices
- Explanation of spin entries, spins, and spin recovery techniques

AIRSPACE:

- Explanation of communication requirements at an airport with an operating control tower located within class G airspace
- Explanation of VFR weather minimums and operational requirements at an airport having class E airspace beginning at the surface
- Explanation of class E airspace starting at other than the surface, 700', or 1,200'
- How to obtain a special VFR clearance
- Explanation of operations within a Terminal Radar Service Area

ENDORSEMENTS:

- Knowledge of logbook endorsements necessary to be eligible for a practical test
- Instructor endorsements required from 1st solo through private pilot certification
- Instructor endorsements for flight and ground instruction given

FLIGHT OPERATIONS:

- Fundamentals of radio navigation, and how to determine a LAT/LONG location
- Aircraft preflight, including detailed knowledge of systems and components
- Landing gear operation, including malfunction troubleshooting
- Steep turns (maintaining angle of bank within PTS standards)
- Power on stalls (recover as the stall occurs)
- Power off stalls (enter from a descent, and recover as the stall occurs)
- Effective demonstration of cross control stalls
- Effective demonstration of spin recovery, if required

- Demonstration of successful simulated emergency approach and landing
- Short field, soft field, and cross-wind takeoffs and landings
- Slips

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Recognition and prompt recovery from faulty landings (porpoising).
- Recognition of Instructor surveillance/supervision requirements for Student Pilot Solo flights.
- Recognizing when a student pilot is ready for first Solo flight.
- Instrument Instructor applicants not possessing instrument pilot skill levels.
- Instructional ability and presentation skills
- Aircraft maintenance records review
- Medical certificate requirements for flight instructors
- Limitations on performing flight instruction without a medical certificate
- Explanation of minimum equipment lists and special flight permits
- Explanation of the FAA Pilot Proficiency Awards Program (Wings Program)
- When discussing a task within an area of operation of the practical test standards, the importance of covering each element included within the task